

## LINCOLN'S PIONEERS.

### A Few of Those Who Helped Make a Fin Community.

By W. R. Bunting.

(Continued from last week)

N E 22 was J. W. Kinney's timber claim. Mr. Kinney did not take care of it in the manner provided by law and Joseph Strobel contested it, made a case and is yet the owner. I. S. Lewis, Sr. took up the N E quarter, built a house and a sorghum mill, had more company than any other ten families in the township, either caused by the sorghum mill or the fact there were several pretty girls in the family and most always several girl visitors. He also fed most of the preachers, was all the time jolly and the most consistent christian we ever knew and the most popular man in the township. Mr. Lewis moved to St. John a number of years ago and was elected probate judge which office he held as long as he wanted it.

The S E quarter was James Kinney's homestead, he sold out in 1878 and moved to Butler county and died there.

The S W quarter was taken up by Misses Lavina and Sylvia Scott as soldiers orphans claim and by them proved up and sold. They both are married and live in Kansas City and are in good financial circumstances. The S W quarter of 22 was homesteaded by James W. Kinney who built what was at that time the best house in the township, he sold out in 1878 and moved to Butler county, Kansas and died there a few years ago.

The N E quarter of 24 was taken up by Rev. Quillen, father of John Quillen, who was formerly a well known resident here. Rev. Quillen and family lived here for several years and then sold out and moved to the east part of the state where he died. J. D. Quillen who was proprietor of a newspaper at Ellinwood in 1887 was his son.

The S E quarter of 24 was the homestead of Mrs. Huls, who proved up and lived there many years and finally sold the place to John Mason, who lives there now. On the south-

east corner of this farm the Eden Valley school house used to stand. It was next to the Pioneer, the most popular school district in the county, quarer was Jonas Miller's timber particularly for lyreums, spelling claim. Mr. Miller sold out and moved to the strip in 1894.

The N E of 32 was the pre-emption of George Dunn. George never made much out of it. He tried to raise sheep, old timers will remember these Mexican sheep, all scab, took ten of them to make a pound of wool George sold or give them away. He ran for office and they beat him. He finally moved to Larned, went into the furniture business, became president of a bank during the 85-86 boom and then went out of business. He is now at Lawton, Ok. and is doing fine in the furniture business and has a son that is a first class professional ball player.

The N W quarter was the homestead of J. B. Smith. He had the honor of being first county treasurer of Stafford county. He moved to St. John in the seventies but still retained the owner of the quarter, also the S W quarter which was his timber claim for several years. Mr. Smith will be remembered as one of the most uncompromising republicans in the county and was active in politics. He now lives at St. John. The S E quarter was homesteaded by Jas. H. Smith who lived there several years and then moved to St. John where he has been in business for several years. Jim has accumulated some property and is in a position to take the world easy. The N 1/2 of section 34 we have to admit we have again lost out on.

The S W was homesteaded by Joe Danler who lived there a couple of years and sold his claim to W. R. Bunting. Danler went east, later returning and is now a well to do farmer south of Great Bend. W. R. Bunting sold the quarter to Pat Keenan in '81 and within a year moved to Pawnee Rock, has held various offices is considered a first class salesman in all lines, from sugar to threshing machines, is not a specialist at any, think he is also considered a good spender but not practical enough to save money, is now a writer on a paper at

The N E of 30 was homesteaded by Joel Miller, one of the best and best known men in Stafford county. Mr. Miller taught the first winter school at the Pioneer and the writer was one of his scholars. Mr. Miller was always and is yet interested in public affairs, has been county treasurer of the county several terms and is a factor in Democratic politics.

The writer owes a great deal to him for practical schooling received at our last term of school and has the honor of once tying him in a contest for office. The N W quarter was Rudolph Yoders homestead, a mighty good man in every way, he sold out several years ago and now lives near Stafford and is in very good financial circumstances. The S E quarter was the homestead of A. B. Miller, he sold out several years ago and moved

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Fred Farr homesteaded the S E quarter. Fred was an Englishman and when he built his first house he built on the top of a moderate size sand ridge, house 12x16. This was to be according to Fred, a chicken house later. He planted trees around the house laid out the grounds with drive ways and parks and intended to have a country seat the same as they have in England. Poor Fred, the nearest he ever came to being a country squire was that he bought a pair of Fox hounds but he never had anything to follow the hounds with except a yoke of oxen. He sold out and like the Arab silently wended his way. Like many others Fred only needed a few million to become a good fellow and a benefactor to the community in which he lived.

In those days there was but one settler on 38, his name was Shaffer. We remember eating dinner with him and the dinner was one we appreciated. It consisted of corn bread, butter and black eyed peas and water and this meal was fully up to the average.

We have written this as we remember it, space will not allow as detailed, description of land or people as we should have liked to have written. Very many people have come and gone from the township since 75-6 and 7. Many of the descendants of the first settlers live in or near the township and we are tempted to take up the young crowd and tell as far as we know what became of them but space will not allow and the recital would only interest the old settlers of that locality. Those were great days and mostly happy days.

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